REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-7 are amended herein, no new matter has been added.

In the office action Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,663 to Yamamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,956 to Ehlers. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 is directed "a method of displaying an accounting state for a communication service by a user terminal device.

Claim 1 recites steps of:

(1)   displaying a screen of the user terminal device to select at least two among a first accounting methods, a second accounting method, and a third accounting method on the user terminal device before starting a packet communication as the communication service, wherein…calculated based on time of the packet communication;

(2)   calculating, during the packet communication, each of accounting quantities corresponding to said at least two accounting methods selected in the user terminal device, in parallel, and displaying calculation results of each of the accounting quantities of said at least two accounting methods on the user terminal device, wherein the calculating and the displaying each of the accounting quantities are executed in real-time; and

(3)   displaying a screen including the accounting quantities corresponding to said at least two accounting methods after finishing the packet communication, to select one of said at least two accounting methods as an accounting method to be applied to the packet communication

The method recited in claim 1 comprises the above-mentioned features (1) and (2) in order to select at least two accounting methods and to display accounting quantities

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corresponding thereto during a packet communication in real-time. Thereby, a subscriber (user) of the user terminal device is able to grasp each of <u>actual</u> accounting quantities during the packet communication in real-time.

Further, the method recited in claim 1 also comprises the above-mentioned feature (3) in order to select one of said at least two accounting methods as an accounting method to be applied to the packet communication. Thereby, the subscriber (user) is able to select an accounting method should be apply to the packet communication based on actual results of each of the accounting quantities displayed.

As best understood the relied upon portions of Yamamoto teach a communication terminal 60 put on a network side like a network server. Yamamoto fails to teach the above-mentioned features (1) to (3). In Yamamoto, a user communicating with the communication terminal determines only a single accounting method before stating enciphered communication. A counter in the communication terminal counts only a unit corresponding to the single accounting method determined and an accounting device in the communication terminal generates a piece of charge information corresponding to a counter value from the counter. Yamamoto's method is not able to select or determine an accounting method to be applied based on actual accounting results of a plurality of accounting methods available to a communication.

Further, in Yamamoto, if two or more accounting methods are selected in advance, two or more sessions to each accounting method selected are required to get two or more actual accounting quantities. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not look to modify the teachings of Yamamoto in this way because of the waste session it would create.

Thus it is submitted that Yamamoto does not teach "displaying a screen of the user terminal device to select at least two accounting device before starting the packet

communication", "calculating and displaying each of accounting quantities corresponding to said at least two accounting methods at the user terminal device in real-time" and "displaying a screen including the accounting quantities corresponding to said at least two accounting methods after finishing the packet communication, to select one of said at least two accounting methods as an accounting method to be applied to the packet communication" to determine an accounting method to be applied based on <u>actual</u> results of accounting quantities <u>displayed on the user terminal device</u> as recited in independent claim 1.

Similarly, it is submitted that the relied upon portions of Ehlers fail to teach any of the above-mentioned features (1) to (3). Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references and is allowable. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith.

IN CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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